

(AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE)

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES }
First Regular Session }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 2528

INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMEN PADILLA, ENVERGA, TUPAS, VALDEZ, CONGRESSWOMEN ECLEO, GONZALEZ, ACOSTA LABARIA, CONGRESSMAN UNICO, CONGRESSWOMAN ALMARIO, CONGRESSMEN BANDON, JR., LUMAIG, LACSON, GUANZON, ANTONINO, BADELLES, MIRAN, PUEY, ANIAG, JR., MENDIOLA, DEL ROSARIO, DANGWA, TEVES, ESPINOSA (T.), LOPEZ-VITO, YULO, BAGATSING, JR., AMATONG, SINGSON (L.), DRAGON, DE PEDRO III, TIROL, ESCUDERO III, DIMAPORO, ESTRELLA III, GARCIA (P.), DEL MAR, CAINGLET, ANDOLANA, BACALTOS, DE LA SERNA, ROMUALDO, CONGRESSWOMAN LOBREGAT, CONGRESSMEN TY, ABINES, RODRIGUEZ, BENGSON III, GARCIA (E.), ABAD, LAGUDA, MONFORT, OZAMIZ, CABOCHAN, DAYANGHIRANG, APACIBLE, LOCSIN, MARTINEZ, JR., CONGRESSWOMEN REYES, PUYAT-REYES, BAKUNAWA, CONGRESSMEN GARDUCE, ROMERO, CARLOTO, REAL, JR., ALFELOR, VELOSO, LEGASPI, CALINGASAN, GARCIA, JR., TIRADOR, LOPEZ (A.), GARIN, DURANO III, PILAPIL, PAYUMO, ESTRELLA (E.), CAMASURA, JR., LOPEZ (J.), AQUINO (F.), IMPERIAL, JAVIER (R.), CONGRESSWOMAN LAUREL-TRINIDAD, CONGRESSMEN ZUBIRI, JR., MONTEJO, ALBANO, MASTURA, CHAVEZ, ADASA, JR., ANDAYA, AQUINO (H.Y.), ABAYA, ASPIRAS, ANGELES (D.), BELTRAN, JR., BERNARDEZ, CHIONGBIAN, CHIPECO, JR., DOMINGUEZ, DUREZA, DOMINGO, JR., FUGOSO, FUA, GUERRERO, DE GUZMAN, HORCA, JR., JABAR, JAVIER (E.), JOAQUIN, JOSON, JR., LAGMAN, MARQUEZ, JR., MATTI, MERCADO (R.G.), MAS-KARIÑO, NALUPTA, JR., OJEDA, ORBOS, ORTEGA, PALACOL, PEREZ, PINEDA, CONGRESSWOMAN PLAZA, CONGRESSMEN

PONCE DE LEON, PUNZALAN, PUZON, RESPICIO, RIVERA, JR., ROXAS, JR., SANTOS (O.), SATOR, SERAPIO, SISON, CONGRESSWOMAN STARKE, CONGRESSMEN TAGARAO, VALENCIA, DE VENECIA, JR., ZAMORA, CONGRESSWOMAN COSETENG, CONGRESSMEN YAP (R.), PLAZA (D.), AQUINO (A.), ISIDRO, OCAMPO, LINGAD, ZARRAGA, AQUINO (H.S.), ABLAN, JR., CONGRESSWOMAN AGANA, CONGRESSMEN AGUILAR, AMANTE, ANGELES (R.), ANNI, BAGATSING (A.), BAUTISTA, SR., CERILLES, CLAVER, COJUANGCO, JR., CONCEPCION, JR., CUENCO, DANS, DAZA, DUPAYA, ESPINOSA (M.), ESTRELLA, JR., GILLEGO, CONGRESSWOMAN GORDON, CONGRESSMAN GUTANG, CONGRESSWOMAN JUCO, CONGRESSMEN LAZATIN, LORETO, MATALAM, MATHAY, JR., MERCADO (R.M.), MITRA, NAVARRO, SR., NUÑEZ, ONG, JR., CONGRESSWOMAN AQUINO-ORETA, CONGRESSMEN PARAS, PELAEZ, RAMIREZ, ROCO, ROÑO, SANTOS (L.), SARMIENTO, SR., SARTE, SINGSON (E.), SUMULONG, SR., TANJUATCO, JR., TAPIA, TINGA, TUZON, CONGRESSWOMAN VERANO-YAP, CONGRESSMEN VILLAREAL, SR., WEBB, AND YAP (J.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 14

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND PROVIDING FOR A
FREE PUBLIC SECONDARY EDUCATION AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

- 1 SECTION 1. *Title.*—This Act shall be known as the
2 “Free Public Secondary Education Act of 1988.”
- 3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*—It is the policy of the
4 State to provide for a free public secondary education
5 to all qualified citizens and to promote quality education
6 at all levels.

1 SEC. 3. *Definitions.*—For purposes of this Act, the
2 following terms shall mean:

3 a) *Free Public Secondary Education.*—Means that the
4 students enrolled in secondary course offerings in national
5 high schools, general comprehensive high schools, state
6 colleges and universities, specialized schools, trade, tech-
7 nical, vocational, fishery and agricultural schools, and in
8 schools established, administered, maintained and funded
9 by local government units, including city, provincial,
10 municipal and barangay high schools, and those public
11 high schools which may be established by law, shall be free
12 from payment of tuition and other school fees;

13 b) *Tuition Fee.*—Refers to the fee representing direct
14 costs of instruction, training and other related activities
15 and for the students' use of the instruction and training
16 facilities;

17 c) *Other School Fees.*—Refer to those fees which cover
18 the other necessary costs supportive of instruction, includ-
19 ing but not limited to medical and dental, athletic, library,
20 laboratory and Citizens Army Training (CAT) fees.

21 However, fees related to membership in the school com-
22 munity such as identification cards, student organizations
23 and publications may be collected, provided that non-pay-
24 ment of these fees shall not in any case be a bar to the
25 enrollment or graduation of any student.

1 **SEC. 4. *Implementation of Free Public Secondary Edu-***
2 ***cation.***—The system of free public secondary education
3 as provided in this Act shall commence in School Year
4 1988-1989, and that the students enrolled in secondary
5 course offerings in national and general comprehensive
6 high schools, state colleges and universities, specialized
7 schools, trade, technical, vocational, fishery and agricultural
8 schools, and in schools established, administered, main-
9 tained and funded by local government units, including
10 city, provincial, municipal and barangay high schools and
11 those public high schools which may be established by law,
12 shall be free from payment of tuition and other school
13 fees, except fees related to membership in the school com-
14 munity such as identification cards, student organizations
15 and publications which may be collected: *Provided*, That
16 nothing in this Act shall cause or authorize the reduction
17 or removal of any benefit which the national or local
18 government may have granted to the students of these
19 public high schools prior to the enactment of this Act.

20 **SEC. 5.** The Department of Education, Culture and
21 Sports shall formulate a secondary education curriculum
22 in order to upgrade its quality, efficiency and access. In
23 addition to providing the high school students with general
24 skills, knowledge and values, such a curriculum must

1 include vocational and technical courses that will give the
2 students gainful employment.

3 SEC. 6. *Limitation.*—The right of any student to avail
4 of free public high school shall terminate if he fails for
5 two (2) school years during the course of his study in the
6 majority of the academic subjects in which he is enrolled
7 unless such failure is due to some valid cause.

8 SEC. 7. *Nationalization of Public Secondary Schools.*—
9 To effectively implement the system, the establishment,
10 administration, supervision and control of all public
11 secondary schools and public secondary school teachers,
12 including the payment of their salaries, allowances and
13 other fringe benefits are hereby vested in the Department
14 of Education, Culture and Sports.

15 SEC. 8. Graduates of public elementary schools in a
16 municipality shall be given priority in admission when the
17 present facilities in the same municipality cannot accom-
18 modate all of those applying for enrollment in the public
19 high schools.

20 SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*—The
21 Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports shall issue
22 the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

23 SEC. 10. The President is hereby authorized to realign
24 or transfer any item of appropriation within the Depart-

1 ment of Education, Culture and Sports and/or utilize
2 any savings therein to carry out the purposes of this Act.
3 Whatever additional amount as may be needed for its
4 implementation shall be included in the General Appro-
5 priations Acts for the ensuing fiscal years.

6 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*—All laws or parts thereof,
7 inconsistent with any provision of this Act shall be deemed
8 repealed or modified as the case may be.

9 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*—This Act shall take effect upon
10 its approval.

Approved,

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